

10 essential tips for spring cleaning your wardrobe

1. Invest the time

Set aside a minimum of 3 hours each spring and autumn to have a good wardrobe cleanse. Investing the time regularly will remind you of what clothes you have, what to get rid of and how to put different looks together.

2. Consider your lifestyle

What percentage of time do you spend at work, going to smart casual social occasions, relaxing at home, or dressing for special occasions?

Your clothes should match your lifestyle. So, for example, if you have retired but still have a wardrobe full of suits, it's time to prune these out and replace them with the type of clothes you can wear regularly.

3. Be ruthless

Go through each garment and if it no longer fits or you have not worn it for 12 months then it needs to go. If you can't bear to part with something, put it into storage in another part of your home. If you go for a further 12 months without wearing it then it definitely should not stay.

4. Be good to your garments

Anything that stays in your wardrobe should be laundered, pressed and ready to wear. Restitch loose hems and replace missing buttons to get these garments back to their best.

5. Only keep day-to-day items in your wardrobe

Items such as winter coats, cocktail dresses and wedding attire should be dry cleaned, covered and stored separately until you need them.

6. Go shopping in your wardrobe

Have regular "shopping" sessions in your own wardrobe, trying things on and experimenting with different tops, accessories, shoes and jewellery.

7. Get a wardrobe buddy

Ask a friend to help you spring clean and shop in your wardrobe, they'll help you to be much more objective.

8. Hang different outfits together

Hang matching outfits together so you can remember which items co-ordinate. Better still, take a photo of outfit combinations or keep a notebook to hand to remind you.

9. Hang jewellery inside your wardrobe door

Hang necklaces and scarves inside your wardrobe door on an expanding mug rack or hooks. You'll be able to see your accessories at a glance and they'll remain tangle-free.

10. Make a shopping list

Whilst you're spring cleaning, make a list of any items you are missing. If you have garments you like but nothing to wear with them, take these along when you shop so you can find the perfect accompaniment.